



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

2 CANADIANS CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING ECSTASY AT NORTHWEST BORDER

52 kilos of drug hidden beneath truck bedliner

SEATTLE – Two Canadian citizens from the Vancouver area appeared in federal court here yesterday to face charges of smuggling ecstasy into the United States, following their arrest Monday by agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Richard E. Godin, 29, and Ashley Sabeski, 21, were taken into custody after U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers discovered approximately 160,000 tablets of the club drug, Ecstasy, concealed under the bedliner of the pickup truck Godin was driving when he and Sabeski entered the United States at the Lynden Port-of-Entry.

“ICE is working closely with its federal and local law enforcement partners to combat the smuggling of dangerous drugs,” said Blaine ICE Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Roy Hoffman. “Those who are involved in this illegal enterprise put their greed ahead of the good of our communities.”

According to court documents, Godin told agents his landlord hired him to drive the truck to Florida to pick up \$500,000 in cash, and that he was aware of his landlord’s “illegal activities.” Godin said he was paid \$12,000 for the trip and was going to give Sabeski \$1,500. Godin also reportedly told agents that this was not his first time running Ecstasy loads.

ICE statistics document steady growth since 2002 in Ecstasy seizures along the Northwest border, with numbers sharply spiking this year. In 2003, 47,686 doses were seized. In 2004, the number rose to 258,026. In the first four months of this year, 465,220 doses were intercepted at the border.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.